

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the action dated October 20, 2005. Claims 7-8, 10-19 and 21-28 remain pending in the application. All pending claims are rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,650,225 B2 to Bastian, II, et al. (hereinafter "Bastian"). Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following argument.

CLAIMS 7-8, 10-19 and 21-28 MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 102(b)

To anticipate a claim, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), a reference must teach each and every element of the claim. It is submitted that the cited reference does not disclose the inventions cited in the pending claims, and that the rejection under § 102(b) is improper.

The action alleges that Bastian discloses:

the operator pushing an "operation complete button" to indicate to the system that the current pick operation is complete. The computer (20) then transmits new information (See col. 16, lines 20-26).

Bastian does not teach the claim 7 and 18 element of a directional display associated with the storage bins whereby "a computer ... operates the direction display to indicate a direction of a storage bin associated with a subsequent pick operation." In response to the examiner's statement that "it is not clear what causes the computer to display the subsequent pick or when in the sequence of operations it is performed," applicants believe that their disclosure clearly describes and claims this feature in compliance with § 112. However, to advance prosecution, the applicants submit that the application at page 8, lines 16-27 may assist the examiner in fully understanding the claimed sequence of operations. Also, the "new information" disclosed by Bastian only encompasses a pick quantity or pick location and does not include the directional information disclosed by the applicants. Instead, Bastian forces the user to physically scan the modules to locate a subsequent pick. Regarding a user's actions during a subsequent pick, Bastian discloses that "[t]he operator than [sic] scans the bins until locating the desired bin having indicator light lit" (col. 7,

lines 49-51). In a further embodiment, Bastian discloses that “pick-from modules visually directs [sic] the operator to the correct carousel shelf level and cell while displaying pick quantity” (col. 8, lines 18-20). Therefore, Bastian does not disclose a directional display associated with a storage bin which is operated by a computer to “indicate a direction of a storage bin associated with a subsequent pick operation.”

Furthermore, it is clear that Bastian does not provide a user with the directional information of the current application. Rather, Bastian discloses a system in which the user must visually scan the remaining bins to locate a subsequent pick. While such a system may be used where all subsequent pick bins are within the user’s immediate vicinity, such a system would have obvious limitations where the location for a subsequent pick is more remote or the number of possible bins is very large. Furthermore, Bastian only presents the user with location information related to a subsequent pick, never direction information (see col. 6, lines 14-18). For example, providing someone with a building’s address, or location, is much different than providing a route, or direction, to that destination from one’s present location. In a warehouse setting, mere location information at a present pick bin forces the user to correlate that information to a memorized direction for a subsequent pick, resulting in considerable inefficiency over the course of several picks. The applicants resolve this complication by providing directional information as recited in claim 7, while Bastian does not disclose this feature. Because Bastian does not teach or suggest each and every element of independent claims 7 and 18, the reference does not anticipate these claims. Therefore, all claims 7-8, 10-19 and 21-28 are believed to be in allowable form.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, the applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and passage to issuance of this application. The applicant invites the examiner to contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding this response or the application as a whole. If there are any additional fees or refunds

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required, the Commissioner is directed to charge or debit Deposit Account No. 13-2855.

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Respectfully submitted,

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